

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS: FONSEC OFFICIAL DESCRIBES
DISCUSSIONS

1. ACCOSTED BY REPORTERS WHILE ATTENDING INAUGURATION OF THE NEW GOVERNOR OF MORELOS JANUARY 11, FONSEC DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISOR JUAN BARONA LOBATO OUTLINED STATE OF PLAY ON ILLEGAL ALIEN ISSUE WITH U.S. BARONA SAID INS HAD EXPELLED 700,000 "UNDOCUMENTED" MEXICAN MIGRANTS DURING 1975 -- ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MORE THAN IN PREVIOUS YEAR. HE ADDED THAT "HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS" HAD PROPOSED MEETING THIS YEAR WITH MEXICAN COUNTER-PARTS "TO SEARCH FOR A MORE FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH" TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM.

2. IN THE FACE OF THIS SITUATION, BARONA CONTINUED, "THEY (PRESUMABLY THE SAME HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS) HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO THE TWO COUNTRIES." MEXICO'S POSITION, HE SAID, WAS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT ITS EXPELLED NATIONALS WERE AT LEAST PAID WAGES AND BENEFITS DUE THEM, THAT THEY WERE ACCORDED THEIR RIGHTS AS HUMAN BEINGS, AND THAT THERE WERE NO "ARBITRARY EXPULSIONS".

3. BARONA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM LAY IN MEXICO AND THAT MEANS HAD TO BE FOUND TO DISCOURAGE THE
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COUNTRY'S RURAL LABOR FORCE FROM MIGRATING. NEVERTHELESS,

HE ADDED, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE -- " IN THE CONTEXT OF I.L.O. RESOLUTIONS" -- THAT MEXICAN WORKERS WERE NOT VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION BY U.S. EMPLOYERS EVEN WHEN THEY MIGRATED WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION.

4. FINALLY, BARONA PLACED THE PROBLEM WITHIN THE LARGER FRAMEWORK OF MEXICAN LABOR MIGRATION GENERALLY, NOTING THAT FARM WORKERS MIGRATED (A) INTERREGIONALLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CROP SEASONS AND REGIONAL LABOR DEMANDS; (B) TO URBAN CENTERS AND THEIR SLUM BELTS; AND (C) INTERNATIONALLY, TO WORK IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURE AND " FOR THE MOST PART" RETURN AGAIN TO THEIR HOMES IN MEXICO.
JOVA

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